

Supplies Drive for Kids

Organized by the MCAEL

Project Goal

To provide something for younger children whose parents are in adult literacy classes connected to MCAEL, in order to keep the children occupied while the adults are learning English.

Project Components

Kids went through their drawers and house and gather up old crayons, markers, stickers, books and other small items, such as McDonald's Happy Meal toys, that they don't use anymore. Some also asked neighbors for items. Four girls brought all the stuff they collected and spent an evening putting packets together in party bags, labeling them for specific ages and genders.

Timeline for Planning

- **About 2 weeks in advance:** Talk to friends, colleagues, or family to find supplies and toys no longer being used.
- **At least a week before:** Seek SSL approval.
- **Day of:** Show up with lots to do for children of adults taking MCAEL classes.

How Many Volunteers?

As many as you can provide—at least 8 would be ideal.

Time Commitment

About 10 hours, including collection and sorting plus one hour for drop-off.

Expenses

The only expenses were party bags and larger bags, ribbon for tying, and some small snacks.

Publicity

This was done through the mom's book club. One friend happened to have tons of books to include in the kits.

Challenges

At first, trying to get 8 kids together was hard. So the moms decided it was too hard to have a date when all could get together, and they ended up dividing into four per group.

Results

There were about 100 supply packs that were "adorable!" said Caroline Pisano, the organizer. All the students got SSL hours. "Collection was so amazing to me because there's just so much stuff sitting around people's houses and we showed kids that the stuff that is sitting around can go to good use. And when the kids put the stuff in packets, it became a fun evening," she said.

Tips/Key Steps:

- Seek SSL approval beforehand.
- A group of 4 is about right to do this project together. They need space to spread things out.



Points of Interest

- > Very good for middle school students, because they're old enough to put the packets together, and to get rid of the stuff.

